

Not Just A Bad Day (Mark 11:12-14; 20-26)

Proposition: Every scripture no matter how puzzling it may appear, is applicable to the life of mankind. This passage is no different. From it, we can take home with us some valuable instructions concerning our Saviour, our service, and our supplication.

- I. **Recognize the Information Granted** (Vs. 12)
 - A. A Description of Jesus' Nature (Vs. 12-13c)
 - B. A Determination of Jesus' Necessity (Vs. 13d-14)
- II. **Respect the Injunction Gleaned** (Vs. 13d-14; 20-21)
 - A. A Prophetic Injunction (Vs. 13d-14; 20-21)
 - B. A Practical Injunction (Vs. 13d-14; 20-21)
- III. **Receive the Insight Given** (Vs. 22-26)
 - A. The Object on whom Our Prayer Rests (Vs. 22)
 - B. The Opportunity which Our Prayer Releases (Vs. 23-24)
 - C. The Obstacle on which Our Prayer Wrecks (Vs. 25-26)

Not Just A Bad Day (Mark 11: 12-14, 20-26)

If you have had the joy of rearing children and you have not said what I'm about to say then I know you've at least thought of it. "I hope when you

grow up you have a child just like you." Usually this is either thought or uttered on a pretty bad or frustrating day. There have been days, where we have blasted the lawnmower, the dryer, or the computer with curses not far off from what Jesus is saying to this fig tree. When discussing this text with my wife she summed it up a Jesus is having a bad day.

He was hungry, he couldn't find anything to eat and when he got to church he got mad at what was going on down there. Now I'd believe it if that were me but not Jesus. You see there is something more going on here than Just a Bad Day! Every scripture no matter how puzzling it may appear, is applicable to the life of every person. This passage is no different. From it we can take home some valuable instructions concerning our

I. Recognize the information Granted-
one of the most difficult subjects to study concerning the Lord Jesus is the hypostatic Union. He was God yet he

here in these few verses we see this vividly portrayed

A. A Description of Jesus' Nature -

He was hungry. One Bible commentator said that it was that he was sickened by the sight in vs 11 that he could not eat at the friends in Bethany's house. Here was God in hunger in Need. He felt hunger pains just like you. Also vs 13. haply - Jesus the omniscient is guessing that there was fruit on the tree. This is the Jesus that saw the heart of the rich young ruler, Look into the eyes of Judas knowing of Betrayal, and here guessing about a fruit tree. Jesus nature was that of a man as well as God. To the greatest extent he lived like us

B. A Determination of Jesus' Necessity

What I mean by that statement is what did Jesus feel it necessary to curse this tree to its death. Often in my bible, when I come across something that doesn't make sense I put a question mark. You'll find one in the last of vs 13. "not yet" It doesn't seem fair that the tree he cursed for not having fruit before the season. Was Jesus just grumpy and zapped the tree. No! We can determine that Jesus is not grumpy and unjust and that there is a reason why.

II. Respect the conjunction Gleaned -

In all of the other miracles of Jesus there is a positive end result with the exception of two. The manna of Gadara and this cursed fig tree. The miracle of the manna

1) ...concerning our Saviour, our service, and our supplication.

2) ...life as you and I. We see here his self-imposed limitations.

One author wrote: *"he was revealing diety to humanity and how els could he do that except om human terms, a human body, human limitations, and a human life lived among men."*

This is as far as we dare trod on this subject.

1) ...This miracle alone is completely negative. It is a drastic judgment. On the merits of this alone we must give it extraordinary attention.

2) ...**Nahum 3:12** All thy strong holds shall be like fig trees with the firstripe figs... **Hosea 9:10** I found Israel like grapes in the wilderness; I saw your fathers as the firstripe in the fig tree at her first time...

3) ...tree never to produce fruit. So this great temple of the God of Israel would produce no more fruit!

4) John 15:6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.

5) ...fruitful?

of Cordara, figs died but men healed. This miracle also

A. A Prophetic chrymation - In the Old Testament, the fig tree is associated with the nation of Israel (Nahum 3:12, Hosea 9:10). This fig tree had leaves that indicated fruit. It had all the outward happening but had no fruit. No new fruit, no late seasoner left over for anything. The fruitful Israel that God had delivered from bondage had no more new fruit of new growth for God, not even any left over (the lame have blind sacrifices of an everyday) Nothing. Just an outward facade. Jesus cursed that tree ³ never to

B. A Practical chrymation - This scene can also be applied to the lost sinner who to the world around looks OK, he may even produce religious or social leaves, yet when the fruit inspector comes there will be none to be found. And despite the cries, didn't we do many wonderful works! Depart! Also for the believer. This tree have had all the potential of producing fruit. Luk 13:6-9 Parable of fig tree: Grace wait let me tend some more, still no fruit. Here is finish cut it down ⁵

John 15:6 ⁵ Was there a time when you were fruitful

III. Receive the insight Given - The "why" of the cursing of the fig tree must have been self explanatory to the disciples because when questioned about it they didn't respond w/ the

why but the "How." This too gives us insight
A. The Object on which Our Prayer Rests -
Have faith in God! We have seen this
phrase before. It is often quoted in
the gospels by Jesus, against those who
have faith in God. Not faith in faith, or
faith in prayer. Faith is only as good as
the object upon which it rests. On my faith
on my prayer "Shalva" Faith in God - Jesus saying

B. The Opportunity which Our Prayer Releases
This was a natural occurrence. Tree with
beams with trees and dies. Mountain moving
natural occurrence. I do not believe that
it was out of the reach of a apostle or any disciple
to move a mountain. Acts doesn't record it. Must
reflect that which is immeasurable, that which
is an obstacle. What an opportunity prayer releases

C. The Obstacle on which Our Prayer Wrecks
Effective prayer not only involves
faith but forgiveness. It is clear
that our interpersonal relationships
greatly affect our heavenly relation-
ship. One author wrote "We do not earn
God's blessing by being good, or another. Our
forgiving spirit is one evidence that our

IV. Closing - No it wasn't just
a bad day. But it was a day that
produced some good instructions. I
don't want to be fruitless. Pray?

1) ...Jesus is saying: constantly be trusting God; live in an attitude of dependence on Him

2) ...that our hearts are right with God and that we want to obey His will and this makes it possible for the Father to hear us and to answer prayer: Psalms 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me: